

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 11, 13, 15, 19, 22-23, 27, 29-30, and 32-39, cancel claims 14 and 16-18, and add new claims 43 – 47 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

3, an ink jet printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer; and

~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input ~~unit~~ unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

wherein each document is printed to have a monetary value determined by the data inputted at said input unit, said control unit is operative to receive authorization instructions from the central location via said interface, and said control unit is operative under control of said time keeping device for blocking dispensing of printed documents when no transmission of the data stored in said memory to the central location has occurred for a predetermined period of time or when reception of an authorization instruction from the central location has not occurred for a predetermined period of time.

2. (Original) The machine according to claim 1 wherein each document form carries a bar code, and said machine further comprises an optical reader in said printer unit for reading the bar code on each document form.

3. (Original) The machine according to claim 2 wherein:

said feed mechanism is operative to feed document forms in succession in a feed direction through said printer;

said printer comprises a print head for dispensing ink to form the printed information on the document forms;

said print head is mounted in said printer for movement in a scanning direction while dispensing the ink;

the scanning direction is transverse to the feed direction; and

said optical reader is mounted for movement with said print head.

4. (Original) The machine according to claim 3 wherein said printer contains a supply of magnetic ink to be dispensed by said print head.
5. (Original) The machine according to claim 3 wherein said optical reader is coupled to said control unit for supplying to said control unit data obtained from reading bar code patterns printed on the document forms.
6. (Original) The machine according to claim 1 wherein said feed mechanism is constructed and operative for feeding the document forms in a single direction from said storage receptacle through said printer and from said machine.
7. (Original) The machine according to claim 1 wherein said control unit comprises a program-controlled data processing device.
8. (Original) The machine according to claim 7 wherein said data processing device comprises:

3, a central processing unit containing a microprocessor operable in response to program instructions;

input/output means connected for receiving the data and operating commands inputted at said input unit and for supplying data and control signals to said printer unit; and

memory means for storing the program instructions for said microprocessor and for receiving and storing data received by said input/output means.

9. (Original) The machine according to claim 8 in combination with a plurality of the document forms held in said receptacle, and wherein each of the document forms is a preprinted form provided with information uniquely identifying that document.
10. (Original) The machine according to claim 9 wherein the information uniquely identifying each document is in the form of a bar code, and said machine further comprises an optical reader disposed for reading the bar code on each document and having an

output coupled to said input/output means for supplying data uniquely identifying each document.

11. (Currently amended) The machine according to claim 10 wherein each document is printed to have a monetary value determined by the data inputted at said input device unit, and said central processing unit is operative to store in said memory means data received by said input/output means from said input device unit and representing the monetary value of each document, together with data received by said input/output means from said optical reader for the same document.

12. (Original) The machine according to claim 8 in combination with a plurality of the document forms held in said receptacle, and wherein each of said document forms is a blank form and said printer contains a supply of magnetic ink to be dispensed by said print head.

13. (Currently amended) The machine according to claim 1 wherein said input device unit comprises a data reader for reading data stored in machine readable form on a data storage medium.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently amended) The machine according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 1 wherein said control unit is operative to ~~receive authorization instructions from the central location via said interface and to~~ block dispensing of printed documents when the cumulative monetary value exceeds a predetermined value and an authorization instruction to dispense further printed documents has not been received by said control unit.

16-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

a printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer; and

~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit, wherein each document form carries a bar code, and said machine further comprises an optical reader in said printer unit for reading the bar code on each document form.

20. (Original) The machine according to claim 19 wherein:

said feed mechanism is operative to feed document forms in succession in a feed direction through said printer;

said printer comprises a print head for dispensing ink to form the printed information on the document forms;

said print head is mounted in said printer for movement in a scanning direction while dispensing the ink;

the scanning direction is transverse to the feed direction; and

said optical reader is mounted for movement with said print head.

21. (Original) The machine according to claim 20 wherein said optical reader is coupled to said control unit for supplying to said control unit data obtained from reading bar code patterns printed on the document forms.

22. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

a printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer; and

~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit, wherein said printer contains a supply of magnetic ink with which the readable information is printed on the document forms.

23. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

a printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer; and

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~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit, wherein said control unit comprises a program-controlled data processing device.

24. (Original) The machine according to claim 23 wherein said data processing device comprises:

a central processing unit containing a microprocessor operable in response to program instructions;

input/output means connected for receiving the data and operating commands inputted at said input unit and for supplying data and control signals to said printer unit; and

memory means for storing the program instructions for said microprocessor and for receiving and storing data received by said input/output means.

25. (Original) The machine according to claim 24 in combination with a plurality of the document forms held in said receptacle, and wherein each of the document forms is a preprinted form provided with information uniquely identifying that document.

26. (Original) The machine according to claim 25 wherein the information uniquely identifying each document is in the form of a bar code, and said machine further comprises an optical reader disposed for reading the bar code on each document and having an

output coupled to said input/output means for supplying data uniquely identifying each document.

27. (Currently amended) The machine according to claim 26 wherein each document is printed to have a monetary value determined by the data inputted at said input ~~device~~ unit, and said central processing unit is operative to store in said memory means data received by said input/output means from said input ~~device~~ unit and representing the monetary value of each document, together with data received by said input/output means from said optical reader for the same document.

28. (Original) The machine according to claim 24 in combination with a plurality of the document forms held in said receptacle, and wherein each of said document forms is a blank form and said printer contains a supply of magnetic ink to be dispensed by said print head.

29. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

31 a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

a printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer; and

~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit, wherein said input ~~device~~ unit comprises a data reader for reading data stored in machine readable form on a data storage medium.

30. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

a printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer; and

~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit, wherein:

each document is printed to have a monetary value determined by the data inputted at said input ~~device~~ unit;

said machine further comprises a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents; and

said machine further comprises a communication interface coupled to said memory for transmitting the data stored in said memory to a central location remote from said machine.

31. (Original) The machine according to claim 30 wherein said control unit is operative to receive authorization instructions from the central location via said interface and to block dispensing of printed documents when the cumulative monetary value exceeds a predetermined value and an authorization instruction to dispense further printed documents has not been received by said control unit.

32. (Currently amended) The machine according to claim 31 further comprising a time keeping device, and wherein said control ~~device~~ unit is operative under control of said time keeping device for blocking dispensing of printed documents when no transmission of the data stored in said memory to the central ~~station~~ location has occurred for a predetermined period of time.

33. (Currently amended) The machine according to claim 31 further comprising a time keeping device, and wherein said control ~~device~~ unit is operative under control of said time keeping device for blocking dispensing of printed documents when reception of an authorization instruction from the central ~~station~~ location has not occurred for a predetermined period of time.

34. (Currently amended) A machine for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit, said document printer unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed,

a printer for printing the readable information on the documents to produce completed documents, and

a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from said receptacle to said printer and for dispensing printed documents from said machine after having been printed by said printer;

~~a control unit~~ an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

B, a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine; and

a time keeping device, and wherein said control unit is operative to receive authorization instructions from the central location via said interface, and said control ~~device unit~~ is operative under control of said time keeping device for blocking dispensing of printed documents when reception of an authorization instruction from the central ~~station~~ location has not occurred for a predetermined period of time.

35. (Currently amended) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

inputting data and operating commands via ~~a manually~~ said manually operable input unit;

providing a plurality of document forms each printed with a bar code;

31 feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to ~~a document~~ said document printer and printing readable information on each successive document form based on data inputted at the input unit;

reading the bar code on each document form with an optical reader when the form is in the printer; and

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document printer.

36. (Currently amended) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

31 inputting data and operating commands via ~~a manually~~ said manually operable input unit;

feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to ~~a document~~ said document printer;

printing on each successive document form, in the printer with magnetic ink, readable information based on data inputted at the input unit; and

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document printer.

37. (Currently amended) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

38. inputting data and operating commands via a manually said manually operable input unit;

reading data stored in machine readable form on a data storage medium in a data reader forming part of the manually operable input unit;

feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to ~~a document~~ said document printer and printing readable information on each successive document form based on data inputted at the input unit and data read in the data reader; and

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document printer.

38. (Currently amended) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

3, a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

inputting data and operating commands via ~~a manually~~ said manually operable input unit;

feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to ~~a document~~ said document printer and printing readable information on each successive document form, the readable information assigning a monetary value to the document form based on data inputted at the input unit;

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document printer;

storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents in ~~a memory;~~ said memory; and

establishing communication between ~~a remote~~ said remote location and ~~[[a]]~~ said communication interface coupled to the memory, and transmitting the data stored in the memory to the remote location.

39. (Currently amended) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

B₁ a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

inputting data and operating commands via ~~a manually~~ said manually operable input unit;

feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to ~~a document~~ said document printer and printing readable information on each successive document form based on data inputted at the input unit;

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document ~~printer~~ printer;

establishing communication between ~~a remote~~ said remote location and ~~[[a]]~~ said communication interface;

periodically transmitting authorization instructions from the remote location to the communication interface; and

blocking dispensing of printed documents when reception of an authorization instruction from the remote location has not occurred for a predetermined period of time.

40. (Previously presented) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the input unit includes a keyboard in operable communication with the machine.

41. (Previously presented) The machine according to claim 19, wherein the input unit includes a keyboard in operable communication with the machine.

31 42. (Previously presented) The machine according to claim 22, wherein the input unit includes a keyboard in operable communication with the machine.

43. (New) The machine according to claim 40, wherein said keyboard is a standard personal computer keyboard and is directly electrically connected to said control unit.

44. (New) The machine according to claim 41, wherein said keyboard is a standard personal computer keyboard and is directly electrically connected to said control unit.

45. (New) The machine according to claim 42, wherein said keyboard is a standard personal computer keyboard and is directly electrically connected to said control unit.

46. (New) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

inputting data and operating commands via said manually operable input unit;

feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to said document printer and printing readable information on each successive document form, the readable information assigning a monetary value to the document form based on data inputted at the input unit;

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document printer;

storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents in said memory;

establishing communication between said remote location and said communication interface coupled to the memory;

transmitting the data stored in the memory to the remote location;

periodically transmitting authorization instructions from the remote location to the communication interface; and

blocking dispensing of printed documents when the cumulative monetary value exceeds a predetermined value and an authorization instruction to dispense further printed documents has not been received from the remote location.

47. (New) A method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions, said method comprising:

providing a machine comprising:

a manually operable input unit for input of data and operating commands;

a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on data inputted at said input unit;

an internal control unit contained within said machine and coupled to said input unit and said printer unit for controlling operation of said printer unit in response to data and commands inputted at said input unit;

a memory connected for storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents;

a communication interface for conducting communications with a central location remote from said machine and operative to transmit the data stored in said memory to said central location; and

a time keeping device,

inputting data and operating commands via said manually operable input unit;

feeding a succession of document forms from a document form storage receptacle to said document printer and printing readable information on each successive document form, the readable information assigning a monetary value to the document form based on data inputted at the input unit;

dispensing each form, after printing, from the document printer;

storing data representing the monetary value of each document and data representing the cumulative monetary value of a succession of documents in said memory;

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c 2 establishing communication between said remote location and said communication interface coupled to the memory;

periodically transmitting the data stored in the memory to the remote location; and

blocking dispensing of printed documents when no transmission of the data stored in said memory to the remote location has occurred for a predetermined period of time.
